

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present claims in view of the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,995,921 to Richards et al. (hereinafter “Richards”), in view of United States Patent No. 6,654,754 to Knauff et al. (hereinafter “Knauff”), and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,647,389 to Fitch et al. (hereinafter “Fitch”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present claims in view of the following remarks.

Claim 1 recites that a method for providing computer software help utility comprises retrieving the list of most recently used search strings and displaying the list of most recently used search strings. Similarly, claim 7 recites a computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer perform the steps of retrieving the list of most recently used search strings and displaying the list of most recently used search strings.

Richards does not teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility or a computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions as recited by claims 1 and 7, respectively. On the contrary, Richards discloses a method of providing information to a user by receiving user-defined queries, storing a plurality of predefined information segments (help panels) in a memory, selecting one of the predefined information segments which corresponds to the user query according to a predetermined criteria, and presenting the selected information segment to the user. This is not analogous to the method of claim 1 or the computer readable medium of claim 7 because Richards fails to teach or suggest that the user-defined queries are stored in a list of most recently used user-defined queries, retrieved, and displayed.

The Office Action relies on the teaching of Knauft to allegedly overcome the above-identified deficiencies of the teaching of Richards. However, like Richards, Knauft does not teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility or a computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions as recited by claims 1 and 7, respectively. Instead, Knauft teaches a method of generating index information for electronic documents including storing a history log for each user that includes the search terms entered by a user to identify data objects. This is not analogous to the method of claim 1 or the computer readable medium of claim 7 because Knauft fails to teach or suggest retrieving the search terms stored in the history log and displaying the search terms. On the contrary, Knauft teaches storing the search terms entered by a user, without suggesting that the search terms are retrieved and displayed. Therefore, the combined teaching of Richards and Knauft fails to teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility or a computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions as recited by claims 1 and 7, respectively.

The Office Action relies on the teaching of Fitch to allegedly overcome the deficiencies of the combined teaching of Richards and Knauft. However, like Richards and Knauft, Fitch does not teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility or a computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions as recited by claims 1 and 7, respectively. In contrast, Fitch teaches an automated method for periodically evaluating media streams on a network of computers, without suggesting retrieving a list of most recently used search strings and displaying the list of most recently used search strings.

For at least these reasons, claims 1 and 7 are allowable over the combined teaching of Richards, Knauft, and Fitch. Since claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and recite additional features and claims 8-10 depend from claim 7 and recite additional features, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined teaching of Richards, Knauft, and Fitch does not make obvious Applicants' claimed invention as embodied in claims 2-4 and 8-10 for at least these reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 recites that a method for providing computer software help utility comprises retrieving the list of most recently used search strings and displaying the list of most recently used search strings.

Richards does not teach a method for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 5. On the contrary, as discussed above, Richards discloses a method of providing information to a user by receiving user-defined queries, storing a plurality of predefined information segments (help panels) in a memory, selecting one of the predefined information segments which corresponds to the user query according to a predetermined criteria, and presenting the selected information segment to the user. This is not analogous to the method of claim 5 because Richards fails to teach or suggest that the user-defined queries are stored in a list of most recently used user-defined queries, retrieved, and displayed.

The Office Action relies on the teaching of Knaft to allegedly overcome the above-identified deficiencies of the teaching of Richards. However, like Richards, Knaft does not teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 5. Instead, Knaft teaches a method of generating index information for electronic documents including storing a history log for each user that includes the search terms entered by a user to identify data objects. This is not analogous to the method of claim 5 because Knaft fails to teach or suggest retrieving the search terms stored in the history log and displaying the search terms. On the contrary, Knaft teaches storing the search terms entered by a user, without suggesting that the search terms are retrieved and displayed. Therefore, the combined teaching of Richards and Knaft fails to teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 5.

The Office Action relies on the teaching of Fitch to allegedly overcome the deficiencies of the combined teaching of Richards and Knaft. However, like Richards and Knaft, Fitch does not teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 5. In contrast, Fitch teaches an automated method for periodically evaluating media streams on a network of computers, without suggesting retrieving a list of most recently used search strings and displaying the list of most recently used search strings.

For at least these reasons, claim 5 is allowable over the combined teaching of Richards, Knauft, and Fitch. Since claim 6 depends from claim 5 and recites additional features, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined teaching of Richards, Knauft, and Fitch does not make obvious Applicants' claimed invention as embodied in claim 6 for at least these reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 recites that a system for providing computer software help utility comprises a software module operative to retrieve the list of most recently used search strings and to display the list of most recently used search strings.

Richards does not teach or suggest a system for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 11. Instead, Richards teaches a computer system to receive user-defined queries at the user interface having a user interface for receiving user-defined queries; to store a plurality of predefined information segments (help panels); to select one of the predefined information segments which corresponds to the user query according to a predetermined criteria; and to present the selected information segment to the user. This is not analogous to the system of claim 11 because Richards fails to teach or suggest that the computer system is operative to store user-defined queries and refined user-defined queries in a list of most recently used user-defined queries, retrieve the list, and display the list.

The Office Action relies on the teaching of Knauft to allegedly overcome the above-identified deficiencies of the teaching of Richards. However, like Richards, Knauft does not teach or suggest a system for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 11. In contrast, Knauft teaches a system for generating index information for electronic documents including a record maintained for each user that includes a history log which maintains the search terms entered by a user to identify data objects. This is not analogous to the system of claim 11 because Knauft fails to teach or suggest that the system is operative to retrieve the search terms maintained by the history log and display the search terms. Therefore, the combined teaching of Richards and Knauft fails to teach or suggest a system for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 11.

The Office Action relies on the teaching of Fitch to allegedly overcome the deficiencies of the combined teaching of Richards and Knauft. However, like Richards and Knauft, Fitch does not teach or suggest a system for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 11. On the contrary, Fitch teaches a system for periodically evaluating media streams on a network of computers, without suggesting that the system is operative to retrieve a list of most recently used search strings and to display the list of most recently used search strings.

For at least these reasons, claim 11 is allowable over the combined teaching of Richards, Knauft, and Fitch. Since claim 12 depends from claim 11 and recites additional features, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined teaching of Richards, Knauft, and Fitch does not make obvious Applicants' claimed invention as embodied in claim 12 for at least these reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

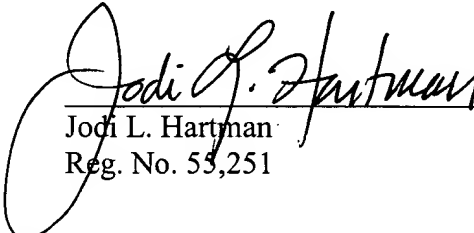
CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, Applicants assert that the pending claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance. The Applicants further assert that this response addresses each and every point of the Office Action, and respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this application with claims 1-12 to allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at 404.954.5042.

Respectfully submitted,
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